



# When All Seems Lost

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**The national bestselling author of *For More Than Glory* and *For Those Who Fell* presents a thrilling new novel of *The Legion of the Damned*-dispatched on a mission that will determine humanity's future in a galaxy full of unpredictable enemies...**

As interstellar war rages, the President of the Confederacy is captured by the Ramanthian enemy. But the aliens don't realize the prize they have taken, since, at the suggestion of young diplomat Christine Vanderveen, all the captives have agreed to hide his identity.

Then the prisoners are taken to a brutal slave labor camp-and Vanderveen is concerned that there may be some among them tempted to reveal the ruse. Determined to protect the President, she must face down opposition, both alien and human, all the while hoping for rescue.

And rescue is on the way-an unauthorized effort, organized by General Bill Booly, manned by a team of volunteers with nothing to lose-and headed by Captain Antonio Santana, Vanderveen's former lover, who must try to set aside his personal feelings for the sake of the mission...

## When All Seems Lost Details

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Author : William C. Dietz

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# **From Reader Review When All Seems Lost for online ebook**

## **Kevin Shockey says**

Very fun read.

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## **I.F. Adams says**

One of the weaker books in the Legion of the Damned series. Based very loosely off of the bataan death march and the later rescue of the troops.

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## **Fred Hughes says**

This series never seems to last long as you are reading along, oblivious to time passing, and then you are done.

Well drawn out and compelling characters plus a story arc that grabs your attention are the hallmarks of all the books in the "Legion of the Damned" series by William C. Dietz.

As a military science fiction genre there is always the chaffing between the political masters and the military whose honor requires them to obey sometimes obtuse objectives within unrealistic deadlines.

And then there are the battles, both in space and planet side, where the cunning enemy is taken down by an even more cunning and dedicated military.

In this book the main story revolves around the fact that the enemy has unknowingly captured the President of the confederacy and don't know it.

The Vice President sees this as a golden opportunity to assume control while trying to stymie the military's desire to rescue the President before his identity is given away. This is where the politicians really shine in their own cunning.

READ the book and then GET THE ENTIRE SERIES

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## **Douglas Pearson says**

### **Good conquers evil**

A simple morality tale set in a future military setting could have been set in any America's wars of the past century. Teenagers ( male) will love it.

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## **Daniel McGill says**

Have you ever wondered what would happen if the Dirty Dozen pulled the Great Raid on the Bridge Over the River Kwai while mounted on Foreign Legion cyborgs more than eight hundred years in the future? No? Well what's wrong with you? I wonder about that kind of thing all the time. Well for those of us with some creatively imaginative curiosity William C. Dietz finally puts forward a cogent and detailed hypothesis on this scenario.

William C. Dietz is an excellent author of military action / political thriller science fiction and this book doesn't disappoint in that regard. Captain Antonio Santana and foreign service officer Christine Vanderveen are again the central characters of this 7th installment of the Legion of the Damned series. As the Ramanthian war continues Vanderveen is captured alongside the confederacy president and must endure harsh treatment and slave labor in a POW camp reminiscent of WWII Japanese camps long enough to be rescued in a covert operation lead by Santana while protecting the identity of the president from their captors and sabotaging the space elevator they're being forced to build. The insect like Ramanthians take on a lot of WWII era Japanese characteristics in this novel in support of the historical metaphor. Meanwhile General Bill Booly and the Chien-Chus must battle the power hungry Vice president to make sure the mission happens at all. Politicians and soldiers do battle with aliens, cyborgs and each other, there are torrid affairs, brutal battles, morally ambiguous scenarios, heroic sacrifices, coherent light is burped and almost everyone dies. All this along side some interesting sci-fi concepts the most important of which in this book is the space elevator and all it's wondrous potential for both economics and disaster. So a typically good read from Dietz.

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## **Francis Gahren says**

The seventh Legion of the Damned novel (after 2004's *For Those Who Fell*) continues the unabashedly brutal military SF saga with a pedal-to-the-metal plot jam-packed with intrigue, deep space adventure and futuristic combat.

With an interstellar war looming, Marcott Nankool, the president and CEO of the Confederacy of Sentient Beings, and his entourage (including Christine Vanderveen) are captured by the Ramanthians, a ruthless insectoid race bent on nothing short of complete dominion over all other intelligent species. Keeping their identities a secret, the POWs are shipped to a labor camp on a remote jungle planet about to become the hatching ground for billions of newborn (and ravenous) Ramanthians.

Against the orders of the ambitious and unethical vice president, Legion Gen. William Booly and Capt. Antonio Santana mount an all but impossible rescue mission. Blending hardcore military fiction with elements of sociological science fiction à la Alan Dean Foster's *Commonwealth* saga, this adrenaline-fueled Clancyesque adventure is Dietz in top form.

Dietz' novel shows similarities between the Ramanthian code of spiritual warfare (no surrender) and the Japanese samurai/bushido code of WWII. Additionally, Captain Santana's raid on Camp Enterprise resembles the Ranger raid on the Japanese POW camp in Cabanatuan, Philippines, on 28 January 1945 led by Lt. Col. Henry Mucci and Captain Prince.

## Chapter Quotes

“Surprise, the pith and marrow of war.”

-Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fisher, 1906

“A brave captain is a root, out of which, as branches, the courage of his soldiers doth spring.”

-Sir Philip Sidney, 1580

“Blood is the price of victory.”

-Von Clausewitz, “On War”, 1832

“Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

-Lord Acton, 1887

“There are times when men have to die.”

-Henry Stimson, Secretary of War, 1941

## Review #2

Several pages into this sci-fi military adventure, I found myself comparing the plot two of my favorite war movies; *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, and the recently made, *The Great Raid*. Elements from both are borrowed in this tale of futuristic warfare, heroism and self-sacrifice. The book is part of a series labeled *The Legion of the Damned*, but none of the previous chapters are needed to appreciate and enjoy this one.

In this future, mankind is part of a union known as the Confederacy of Sentient Beings and is at war with a bug-like race known as the Ramanthians. Good sci-fi military books require traditional set pieces to be effective, among these are large scale outer space battles. When *All Seems Lost* opens with a dandy. The Ramanthians have managed to deploy an ambush around a known hyper-space exit point and when Confederacy warships begin appearing, they brutally decimate them one after the other. Aboard the flagship of this doomed fleet is none other than the President of the Confederacy and as his ship comes under fire, it looks like he will either be killed or captured by bugs; the latter course much more damaging to the Confederacy. As a high level prisoner, the President could be used by the enemy to extort certain concessions from the administration, concessions that would prove extremely harmful to the war effort.

Then, at the last minute, a savvy diplomatic assistant suggest disguising the President's identity from their captors. This would allow him to go undetected among the other POWs until a hopeful rescue mission could be launched. The President agrees to the subterfuge and orders the captain of the ship to surrender. Thus begins the ordeal of the Confederate survivors. They soon find themselves on a harsh, hot and humid jungle planet and put to work aiding the Ramanthians in building a space elevator. Which is where the similarities to *The Bridge on the River Kwai* come into play.

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## Mark Baller says

Great book looking for the rest of the series now

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**Bill says**

A slow start but soon spins out of control in a good way. Captain Santana and General Booly battle corrupt Confederacy politicians and the Ramanthian Empire to liberate diplomats and military personnel from a prison planet.

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**Steven Allen says**

A very enjoyable read. I have always liked Dietz's books of the Legion of the Damned. I did feel some of the characters got a short thrift and died far too conveniently such as SGT Gomez and the cyborg Snyder. Perhaps the publisher was attempting to keep page count to an arbitrary number. Despite my grumblings of the character's death, I enjoyed the book. I am looking forward to reading more the Legion of the Damned.

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**Tasula says**

probably modeled on Bataan death march- excellent part of the Legion of the Damned SF military series- great characters and action

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